

ST. JOHNS RIVER STATE COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

August 20, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Rich Komando, Chairperson
Mr. Wendell Davis, Vice-Chair
Mr. Nick Primrose
Ms. Chereese Stewart
Mr. Cyrus Zomorodian

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Jud Sapp (excused)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joe H. Pickens, J.D., Executive Secretary
Lisa Miles, Board Attorney

Chairperson Komando called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Meeting Call to Order

Chancellor Kathy Hebda made a Scholarship Presentation on behalf of the Florida College System Foundation to the St. Johns River State College Foundation. President Pickens expressed appreciation.

Scholarship
Presentation

The floor was open to Public Comments. Hearing none, the floor was closed to Public Comments.

Public Comment

There was no Old Business.

Old Business

Chairperson Komando requested approval of the Consent Agenda Items V.A-D:

Consent Agenda
Items

A.1 - Minutes of June 18, 2025, Board Meeting

B.1 - Chief Operating Officer/Senior Vice President –
Dr. Melanie Brown: Personnel Matters

C.1-2- Vice President for Finance/CFO – Randy Peterson: Facilities Usage Report – June and July 2025; Write-offs of Tangible Personal Property; and Budget Amendments – Final FY 24-25 - Operating Fund 1, Restricted Fund 2, Auxiliary Fund 3, and Capital Outlay/Plant Fund 7.

D.1-2 - Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs –
Dr. Ed Jordan: 2025-2026 Articulation Agreement
Among Eligible Home Education Students and their

Parents/Guardians and St. Johns River State College; 2025-2026 Articulation Agreement Between the District Board of Trustees of St. Johns River State College and the following public school districts (District School Boards of Clay, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties); 2025-2026 Articulation Agreement Between the District Board of Trustees of St. Johns River State College and Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind; 2025-2026 Memorandum of Understanding for Interpreter Services Between the District Board of Trustees of St. Johns River State College and the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (information only); 2025-2026 Articulation Agreement Between the District Board of Trustees of St. Johns River State College and St. Johns Classical Academy Charter School; 2025-2026 Articulation Agreement Between the District Board of Trustees of St. Johns River State College and the private schools (Beacon of Hope Christian Academy, Calvary Christian Academy, Center Academy, Christian Home Academy, Crescent City Christian Academy, Hillcrest Academy, Matanzas Christian Academy, Putnam Banner Academy, Seamark Ranch; Seven Bridges School; Springs Academy, St. John's Academy, St. Joseph Academy, The Broach School, Victory Prep School, and Washington Classical Christian School); curriculum revisions effective Fall 2025 for the Teacher Education Department (Revised Courses - EDF 2005 Introduction to the Teaching Profession, EDF 4603 Critical Issues in Classroom Management, Ethics, Law, and Safety, EPI 0030 Maximizing Student Potential in the School Context; Courses to Delete - EDF 2085 Introduction to Diversity for Educators and EDG 4419 Building Classroom Management and Discipline); curriculum revisions effective Fall 2026 for the Teacher Education Department (Revised Courses - RED 3309 Early and Emergent Literacy, RED 4319 Diagnosis and Instructional Intervention in Reading, RED 4511 Intermediate Literacy: Reading and Thinking, RED 4519 Diagnosis & Intervention in Reading, and RED 4844 Reading Practicum); curriculum revisions effective Fall 2026 for the Arts and Sciences Department (Revised Courses - ENC 1102 Composition II and ENC 1102 Honors Composition II; Courses to Delete - MGF 1106 Mathematics for Liberal Arts I, MGF 1107 Mathematics for Liberal Arts II, ZOO 2010 Zoology, and ZOO 2010L Laboratory for Zoology); General Education Courses for Academic Year 2026-2027; Review and Certification of Annual Institutional General Education Review; and new Continuing Workforce Education course - Use of Force Articulation - CWL #####.

Mr. Davis moved approval of Consent Agenda Items V.A-D. Mr. Primrose seconded the motion. Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Primrose, Stewart, Zomorodian – Yes).

Approved Consent
Agenda Items V.A-D

Dr. Melanie Brown reviewed and requested approval to Ratify Article 20 Wages Reopener for FY 25-26 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the District Board of Trustees of St. Johns River State College and the St. Johns River State College Chapter of United Faculty of Florida.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Ms. Stewart, to approve Chief Operating Officer Item VI.A.1.a as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of Chief Operating Officer). Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Primrose, Stewart, Zomorodian – Yes).

Approved Chief
Operating Officer Item
VI.A.1.a

Dr. Brown reviewed and requested approval of the Designation of up to 18 “Free Application Days” during the 2025-2026 academic year: 3 days in October 2025 to be held in conjunction with *FAFSA Frenzy* events on each campus; 6 days in late February/early March 2026 for *Free App Friday* events at local high school campuses; 3 days in April 2026 to coincide with each *SJR State Campus Open House*; 1 day in July/August 2026 during the *End of Summer* Recruiting Event; and Up to 5 additional days in 2025-2026 to be potentially scheduled in conjunction with other major recruiting events or campaigns.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Zomorodian, to approve Chief Operating Officer Item VI.A.1.b as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of Chief Operating Officer). Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Primrose, Stewart, Zomorodian – Yes).

Approved Chief
Operating Officer Item
VI.A.1.b

Chuck Romer reviewed and requested approval of Compensation Increases for Non-Bargaining Unit Employees. President Pickens explained that the non-recurring salary adjustment is being phased out.

Mr. Primrose moved, seconded by Ms. Stewart, to approve Chief Operating Officer Item VI.A.2.a. as revised (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of Chief Operating Officer). Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Primrose, Stewart, Zomorodian – Yes).

Approved Chief
Operating Officer Item
VI.A.2.a

Chuck Romer reviewed and requested approval of the 2025-2026 St. Johns River State College Salary Schedule.

Mr. Primrose moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve Chief Operating Officer Item VI.A.2.b as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of Chief Operating Officer). Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Primrose, Stewart, Zomorodian – Yes).

Approved Chief
Operating Officer Item
VI.A.2.b

VP/CFO Randy Peterson reviewed and requested approval of the Contract between St. Johns River State College and Belfor USA Group, Inc. for Disaster Recovery and Remediation Services. Mr. Primrose expressed concern regarding the need for a local back-up / alternative company to ensure the College receives services in a timely manner. Discussion followed. Chair Komando noted the process is in place in case of an emergency for the College to hire another company. However, the Board needs to approve the company before services are needed, otherwise costs will not be reimbursed by FEMA.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Primrose, to approve VP/Chief Finance Officer Item VI.B.1. as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of VP/Chief Finance Officer). Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Primrose, Stewart, Zomorodian – Yes).

Approved VP/Chief
Finance Officer Item
VI.B.1

VP/CFO Randy Peterson reviewed and requested approval of the Contract between St. Johns River State College and T.F.R. Enterprises, Inc. for Debris Removal and Management Services.

Mr. Primrose moved approval, with the caveat of being able to hire a back-up company, and it was seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve VP/Chief Finance Officer Item VI.B.2. as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of VP/Chief Finance Officer). Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Primrose, Stewart, Zomorodian – Yes).

Approved VP/Chief
Finance Officer Item
VI.B.2

VP/CFO Randy Peterson reviewed and requested approval of the Amended 2025-2026 Operating Budget – Unrestricted Fund. He noted a correction to the next to last paragraph of the Amendment Operating Budget memo, indicating that the excess of revenue over expenses should be \$696,028 rather than \$1,638,943.

Mr. Zomorodian moved, seconded by Mr. Davis, to approve VP/Chief Finance Officer Item VI.B.3. as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of VP/Chief Finance Officer). Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Primrose, Stewart, Zomorodian – Yes).

Approved VP/Chief Finance Officer Item VI.B.3

Dr. Ros Humerick reviewed for information only the SJR State 2025 Fact Book and Facts at a Glance. She noted it contains public-facing institutional data.

VP/ Chief Institutional Research Officer Item VI.C.1

Chairperson Komando called for the Designation of the Board's Designee on the Student Housing DSO Board.

Designation of Board's Designee on the Student Housing DSO Board

Mr. Primrose moved and Ms. Stewart seconded that Wendell Davis be reappointed. Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Primrose, Stewart, Zomorodian – Yes).

President Pickens requested that the Appointment of Board Officers agenda item be moved up before the President's Report agenda item.

Chairman Komando opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson of the Board for 2025-2026.

Appointment of Board Officers for 2025-2026 (Chair and Vice-Chair)

Mr. Davis nominated Mr. Komando to serve as Chairperson and Mr. Primrose seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Primrose, Stewart, Zomorodian – Yes).

Mr. Zomorodian nominated Mr. Primrose to serve as Vice-Chairperson and Ms. Stewart seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Primrose, Stewart, Zomorodian – Yes).

Discussion was held on who should be appointed as the Board Liaison to the Foundation. Ms. Stewart nominated Mr. Sapp. Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Primrose, Stewart, Zomorodian – Yes).

Designation of Board's Liaison to the St. Johns River State College Foundation

President Pickens informed the Board that the name of the road that runs from College Drive to the Thrasher-Horne Center has been changed to "Thrasher Horne Avenue." He expressed appreciation for the staff at Clay County who made the process easy through all the steps.

President's Report Item IX.A

President Pickens noted that the Appraisal Report for the property located at 341 College Drive in Orange

President's Report Item IX.B

Park has been completed. He noted the impetus for having an appraisal completed was that the property is listed for sale and the College wanted to do due diligence. The College has been interested in the property to the south in regards to aligning the exit from the College with the traffic light. Dr. Brown noted that the College would prefer a traffic light at the north entrance/exit. President Pickens discussed having an appraisal of the property to the north. It was the consensus of the Board to explore that as well as the status of that property.

President Pickens noted that a regional coverage moto-plex complex is being proposed for development on 445 acres north of the airport in Palatka. He noted for full disclosure that Douglas Law Firm represents the owners. It received approval at the Putnam County Planning Commission meeting last week. The proposal will require review by multiple state agencies. There are educational opportunities as it relates to automotive technology. There is potential for the College to co-locate a facility on the premises, which would free up land space on the Palatka Campus.

President Pickens informed the Trustees that classes start on Monday. Students have begun moving into the student housing.

The volleyball season starts on Friday and there are only two (2) players who remain from last year's team. The new coaches won a national championship at the previous college at which they worked.

President Pickens referred Trustees to the thank you note from the Thrasher family.

Trustee comments were made.

Chairperson Komando adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

President's Report
continued

Trustee Comments

Adjournment